

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 01311 292212Z

12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-07 OES-03 VO-03 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /034 W  
----- 085747

R 291830Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6701

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1311

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON TGEN UR US

SUBJECT: SOVIET INTEREST IN US HEAVY TRUCK & TRANSPORTATION  
EQUIPMENT TECHNOLOGY

FOR EUR/SOV AND USDOC/BEWT

REF: A. MOSCOW 15744 (12/18/74); B. MOSCOW 3230 (3/6/74)

1. SCIENCE COUNSELOR MET WITH T.I. LAPIN, CHIEF OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS SECTION, MINISTRY OF THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY, AND OLEG N. MOROZOV OF THE USA SECTION OF THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON JANUARY 20, AT THE REQUEST OF THE LATTER, TO DISCUSS A VISA PROBLEM IN CONNECTION WITH A FORTHCOMING VISIT TO THE U.S. OF A FIVE-MAN TEAM OF SOVIET AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTION SPECIALISTS.

2. THE SOVIET SPECIALISTS, WHO ARE TO BE LED BY I.R. SIDOROVICH, CHIEF OF THE MAIN ADMINISTRATION FOR TRUCK PRODUCTION, MINISTRY OF THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY, PLAN TO VISIT G.M. FACILITIES IN CLEVELAND AND MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN, CATERPILLAR'S PEORIA FACILITIES, UNIT RIG AND EQUIPMENT CORPORATION IN TULSA AND INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER IN CHICAGO DURING THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 9-21. LAPIN SAID THAT THE GROUP HAS BEEN INVITED TO THE U.S. BY GM VICE PRESIDENT GAGE, WHO IS ALSO PRESIDENT OF GM OVERSEAS CORPORATION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 01311 292212Z

3. THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WILL BE TO GAIN FAMILIARIZATION WITH U.S. HEAVY VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY AND MANUFACTURING AND TO CONDUCT PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS ON POSSIBLE COOPERATION BETWEEN U.S. FIRMS AND THE MINISTRY OF THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY ON THE PRODUCTION OF REAR AXLES FOR HEAVY TRUCKS. LAPIN SAID THAT THE SOVIETS ARE INTERESTED IN WORKING OUT SOME KIND OF TECHNICAL AND INFORMATIONAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT IN THIS FIELD FOR USE IN CARRYING OUT THE USSR'S 1976-1980 FIVE-YEAR PLAN. ALTHOUGH THE DISCUSSIONS ARE TO BE PRELIMINARY, LAPIN NOTED THAT THE SOVIETS ARE AT THIS MOMENT PRIMARILY WEIGHT UP TO 50-70 TONS. THE SOVIETS HAVE GREAT NEED FOR EQUIPMENT OF THIS SIZE FOR STRIP MINING AND FOR PROJECTS IN THE ARCTIC, ACCORDING TO LAPIN.

4. LAPIN SAID THAT WHAT IS ENVISAGED AT FIRST, IF A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WERE WORKED OUT, WOULD BE AN EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION FOLLOWED PERHAPS BY A JOINT PROJECT ON THE MANUFACTURE OF TRUCK PARTS. IF THIS WERE TO PROVE SUCCESSFUL, THE USSR WOULD BE INTERESTED IN BRINGING THE U.S. FIRM OR FIRMS INVOLVED INTO A HUGE PROJECT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A HEAVY TRUCK PRODUCTION COMPLEX "LARGER THAN THE KAMA PROJECT" DURING THE 1980-1985 PERIOD.

5. COMMENT: EMBOFFS HAVE NOT SEEN GM REPS FOR LAST SEVERAL MONTHS, BUT DURING LAST SESSION (REF B) THEY INDICATED THAT COMPANY LUKEWARM TO SIGNING ANY KIND OF S&T COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH SOVIETS. AN INVITATION NOW FROM GM WOULD APPEAR TO INDICATE EITHER AN ABOUT-FACE ON PART OF COMPANY, OR LESE REASONABLY FIRM COMMITMENT BY SOVIETS TO NEGOTIATE AND CONCLUDE MAJOR CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE OF HEAVY-DUTY, OFF-HIGHWAY TRUCKS AND/OR COMPONENTS. (GM HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO LICENSE SUCH TECHNOLOGY TO SOVIETS, PREFERRING DIRECT COMMODITY SALES.)

6. REGARDING NEW TRUCK PLANT (PRESUMABLY THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 01311 292212Z

KRASNOYARSK PROJECT), EMBASSY NOTES LAPIN STATEMENT THAT PROJECT NOW SCHEDULED FOR 1980-1985 PERIOD. THIS WOULD APPEAR TO CONFIRM PREVIOUS REPORTS THAT THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN POSTPONED IT HAD BEEN ORIGINALLY SLATED FOR TENTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN (1975-1980). GM IS KNOWN TO HAVE MIXED FEELINGS ON PARTICIPATION IN NEW TRUCK PLANT AS WELL (SEE PARA 3, REF A). ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE/BEWT COULD

PROVIDE REGARDING CURRENT STATE OF PLAY BETWEEN GM AND SOVIET  
AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY.  
MATLOCK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRUCKS, TRANSPORTATION, TRADE VISITS, INDUSTRIAL PLANTS, BUSINESS FIRMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MOSCOW01311  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750033-0898  
**From:** MOSCOW  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750110/aaaaaiyf.tel  
**Line Count:** 118  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 MOSCOW 15744, 75 (12/18/7, 75 MOSCOW 3230, 75 (3/6/7  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 11 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <23 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOVIET INTEREST IN US HEAVY TRUCK & TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT TECHNOLOGY  
**TAGS:** ECON, TGEN, UR, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006